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Brief Description of a Recreation Evaluation System
Designed by the Montana Fish and Game Department
and the
Montana Department of State Lands

JUN 6 1974

The primary objective of the recreation evaluation system was to locate and describe state owned trust lands which have recreational value and to rank these lands in terms of physical, aesthetic, and geographic characteristics important to recreation. The overriding concept and goal was to evaluate each parcel of land by a standardized systematic method and to rank each parcel by this method. The final designed system is composed of the following items which are described below:

1. Recreation Potential Evaluation Guide (Appendix I)
2. Recreation Potential Evaluation Recording Form (Appendix II)
3. Guidelines for Recreation Potential Evaluation (Appendix III)

The Recreation Potential Evaluation Guide breaks down various physical, geographic and aesthetic characteristics into a 0-5 rating classification. The characteristics are grouped under the major heading categories of topography, vegetation, water, off-site and other on-site positive factors, and scenery. The majority of the factor ratings are actual facts or estimated quantities associated with a parcel which have been subjectively ranked from 0 to 5. 5 represents the best possible situation for a particular characteristic and 0 represents the lowest situation. Some of the characteristics are purely subjective evaluations, but these were kept to a minimum and when possible, verbal descriptions were entered in the ratings to reduce the subjective nature of the evaluation.

Besides use in a systematic inventory of recreation potential, the evaluation guide serves as a structure on which to base discussion of a parcel when several people are in the field to inspect a potential recreation area.

The Recreation Potential Evaluation Recording Form is used to record the ratings made from the Recreation Potential Evaluation Guide. The form has space for recording other data which were not rated, but are considered important from a recreational viewpoint. The total scores obtained for each major category and the total combined score are recorded in the top right hand corner of the form. The recording form not only serves to record the basic facts of the characteristics but may be used as a visual

profile of parcel characteristics.

The Guidelines for Recreational Potential Evaluation is the manual for the system which explains what to record on the Recording Form, what are meant by concepts in the system and what to look for when evaluating a parcel.

I. TOPOGRAPHY

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Factor	Category	5	4	3	2	1	0
G.	Terrain Variety	Vertical or near vertical cliffs, spires, highly eroded formations, massive rock outcrops, severe surface variation dominant.		Steep canyon walls, mesas, small scale erosional patterns, variety in size and shape of land forms dominate. May not be as steep or have as much relief of variety.		Rolling hills, foothills, flat valley bottom dominant, little relief.	Flat or undulating plains dominant with little or no relief on parcel. Is flat valley or ridge top.
D.	Amount of usable Area.	Greater than or equal to 75% of parcel.	Less than 75% of parcel, but greater than or equal to 50% of parcel.	Less than 50% of parcel, but greater than or equal to 25% of parcel.	Less than 25% of parcel, but greater than or equal to 10% of parcel.	Less than 10% of parcel.	No usable area on parcel.
E.	Geologic Features	Extensive geologic features (exposed igneous intrusion, limestone ridge, basalt columns, large exposed boulders or rocks). Extremely interesting and possibly unique for area.		Extensive geologic features (exposed igneous intrusion, limestone ridge, basalt columns, large exposed boulders or rocks). Possibly not unique for area. Geologic features not as interesting.		Small rock outcrops or erosional formations, or rocks present which may be of some rock collecting value. No large features.	Very small or no rock outcrops. No rocks of interest.
F.	Valley, gorge, ravine site environments	Many adequate usable areas suitable for development. Easy auto access.	Many adequate usable areas suitable for development. Limited auto access.	Limited usable areas suitable for development. Easy auto access.	Limited usable areas suitable for development. Limited auto access.	Narrow, constricted, confined valley, gorge or ravine area not suitable for development.	None
G.	Valley scenic evaluation	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very low	Distracting or none
H.	Ridgetop site environments	Many adequate usable areas suitable for development. Easy auto access.	Many adequate usable areas suitable for development. Limited auto access.	Limited usable areas suitable for development. Easy auto access.	Limited usable areas suitable for development. Limited auto access.	Ridges too steep or narrow for development.	None
I.	Ridgetop scenic evaluation	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very low	Distracting or none.

II. VEGETATION

Factor	Category	5	4	3	2	1	0
F.	Forest: Pattern and Density	Forest and scattered trees throughout most usable area. Sufficient variation in density of pattern to provide open space, clearings for variety, interest, enclosures, shade, privacy.	Forest and open areas scattered throughout most usable area, but lack of variety of forest pattern provides little interest.	Forest on usable area often too dense for easy use, but provides occasional areas of open space.	Forest present, but stands unrelated to most usable area. May add to scenery.	Sparse forest or scattered trees, or dense with no openings.	None or very few trees on parcel.
G.	Forest: Quality	Vigorous, little disease evident. Good specimens.		50 - 50 mixture of good and poor specimens.		Mostly poor quality trees (burns, disease, blowdowns, etc.)	None or very few trees on parcel.
H.	Forest: Variety	Much variety of size and species.		Some variety of sizes and species: 2 or 3 different major species.		Little variety of sizes: all about same height, size. Predominantly one species.	None or very few trees on parcel.
I.	Forest Scenic Evaluation	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very low	Distracting, or none or very few trees on parcel.
J.	Shrubs and Scrub: Pattern and Density	Interestingly dispersed. Add interest to any tree groups yet interesting in themselves. Enhance use of area greatly (provides privacy, space enclosure, etc) Do not prohibit movement.		Shrubs present in small quantity or size, but add some interest. or Fairly dense, blocks vision, enjoyment or access to features.		Very dense, impenetrable, blocks vision, enjoyment and access to features. or extensive cover of small shrubs.	None or very few shrubs on parcel.
K.	Shrubs and Scrub: Variety	Great variety of shrubs, various sizes, various species.		Some variety present; various sizes, and species.		Shrubs lack variety. Size and species tends toward uniformity.	None or very few shrubs on parcel.
L.	Ground covers: Pattern and Density	Vigorous, dense, sturdy cover.	Most open areas of the parcel are covered with vigorous dense grasses or other vegetation. Occasional sparse areas scattered through parcel.	About 50 - 50 throughout the parcel. Some vigorous dense areas. Some sparse, poorly covered areas or moderate cover throughout.	Most of the parcel is covered with sparse cover. Occasional dense areas scattered throughout parcel.	Sparse cover over most of parcel. Occasional barren areas scattered throughout parcel.	Barren, or extremely scattered cover.
M.	Ground covers: Variety	Much variety: Many types of grasses, weeds, forbs and wildflowers or very low shrubs scattered throughout the parcel. Many variations in appearance; interesting throughout parcel.		Some variety: Several types of ground cover. Some variation in appearance from place to place.		Little variety: Predominantly all one type of ground cover - appearance much the same throughout.	Barren, or extremely scattered cover.

Factor	Category	5	4	3	2	1	0
H.	Lakes: Extent of Water Surface	One or more bodies of surface water with at least one exceeding 10 acres in size found on parcel or continuous with parcel.	N/A	One or more bodies of surface water 5 acres in size.	N/A	Lakes or ponds less than 5 acres in size.	No lakes found on parcel, only stock water pits present.
I.	Lakes: (5 acres or more) Drawdown	Exists at a pleasant and usable level during summer season (little evidence of likely drawdown).	N/A	Exists at a usable level during summer season but is drawn off, leaving exposed mud, etc.	N/A	Does not exist at a usable level (mud flats, etc.) during summer season	Lake less than 5 acres
J.	Lakes: Water Quality	Not polluted. Clear, clean lake.		Polluted to a noticeable, but not severe, extent with natural pollutants such as silt, scum, algae, etc.		Appears severely polluted with natural and/or man-caused pollutants.	No lake
K.	Lakes: Recreation Usability	Is obviously deep enough and large enough for any recreational activity	N/A	Depth may be too shallow or lake too small, or may be hazardous.	N/A	Depth is obviously too shallow or lake is too small and hazardous or unpleasant	No lake
L.	Lakes: Shoreline	Usable shoreline, which includes some sandy beach, occurs on most of state land bordering lake.	Usable shoreline occurs on most of state land bordering lake.	Usable shoreline occurs on at least 25-50% of state land bordering lake.	Usable shoreline occurs on 10 - 25% of state land bordering lake.	Less than 10% usable shoreline occurs on state land bordering lake.	No lake
M.	Lakes: Shoreline Scenic Evaluation	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very low because of debris, etc.	Distracting, or: no lake
N.	Lakes: Accessibility to or near the shore	Accessible to 25% or more of shore by automobile.	Access for automobile to shore	Probably not accessible by automobile to within 1/2 mile of shore, but easily accessible by heavy-duty vehicle to shore.	Not accessible by automobile to within 1/2 mile of shore and difficult access by heavy-duty vehicle.	No vehicle access to within 1/2 mile of shore.	No lake.
O.	Streams: Length on, or bordering parcel	Over one mile of stream on or bordering on parcel.	.75 - 1 mile of stream on or bordering on parcel.	.5 - .75 mile of river on or bordering on parcel.	.1 - .5 mile of stream on or bordering on parcel.	Less than .1 mile of stream on or bordering on parcel.	No stream with year-round flow.
P.	Streams: Water Quality	Clear, clean, river or stream		Appears to be somewhat polluted by natural materials.		Stream is obviously polluted and unpleasant	No stream with year-round flow.
Q.	Streams: Recreation Usability	Depth and width seems to make it ideal for most activities, including boating. It is not hazardous (very rapid currents, etc.).	Depth and width seems to make the stream usable for most activities, including boating. It is not hazardous.	Depth and width seems to make it usable for most activities except boating. May or may not be hazardous.	Shallow depth or width limits potential activities, or it appears to be hazardous.	Appears to be very hazardous or it is a very small stream	No stream with year-round flow.
R.	Streams: Shoreline	Usable shoreline, which includes some sandy beach, occurs on most of state land bordering stream.	Usable shoreline occurs on most of state land bordering stream	Usable shoreline occurs on at least 25 - 50% of state land bordering stream.	Usable shoreline occurs on 10-25% of state land bordering stream	Less than 10% usable shoreline occurs on state land bordering stream.	No stream with year-round flow.
S.	Streams: Shoreline scenic evaluation	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very low	Distracting, or: no stream with year-round flow.
T.	Streams: Accessibility to or near water on at least one shore	Accessible to 25% or more of shore by automobile.	Access for automobile to shore.	Probably not accessible by automobile to within 1/2 mile of shore, but easily accessible by heavy-duty vehicle to shore.	No accessible by automobile to within 1/2 mile of shore and difficult access by heavy-duty vehicle.	No vehicle access to within 1/2 mile of shore.	No stream with year-round flow.
U.	Marshes: Size and extent	One or more separate marshes with at least one exceeding 5 acres in size on the parcel.	N/A	One or more separate marshes with the largest 1 to 5 acres in size on the parcel.	N/A	One or more separate marshes, all less than 1 acre in size on parcel.	No marshland found on parcel.
V.	Marshes: Quality and Variety	Water in marsh not polluted. Vegetation appears vigorous but there are areas of open water. Vegetation appears to be very good or excellent habitat.		Water in marsh not polluted. Vegetation appears sparse, or has poor vigor, or dense with little open water. Vegetation appears to be fair habitat. Vegetation has little variety.		Water in marsh appears polluted. Vegetation appears sparse, poor (perhaps due to pollution). Vegetation appears to be poor habitat. Vegetation has little variety.	No marshland found on parcel.

Factor	Category	5	4	3	2	1	0
A.	Accessibility onto parcel	Paved or oiled road to or through parcel.	Gravel or graded and drained dirt road ("all weather") to or through parcel. Roads should be in good or excellent condition.	Gravel or graded and drained dirt road ("all weather")	Dirt road, drained (may be graded). Suitable for automobiles except immediately after rain.	Dirt road or trail, mainly suitable for heavy-duty vehicle (does not appear drained, may be muddy for extensive periods).	No <u>established</u> vehicle access.
B.	Legal access onto Parcel	Has legal access to parcel.	N/A	No legal access. Access to public road (s) within .5 mile.	N/A	No legal access. Access to public road (s) greater than .5 miles.	N/A
C.	Proximity of Parcel to Population Centers	Parcel within city urban, built-up area (Pop. > 2500). High value to low-mobility urban population.	Parcel within 1 hour drive (less than 25 miles) of a town of 10,000 population.	Parcel within 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 hour drive (25 to 75 miles) of a town of 10,000 population.	Parcel within 1 1/2 to 3 hours drive (75 to 150 miles) of a town of 10,000 population.	Parcel 3 to 6 hours drive (150 to 300 miles) of a town of 10,000 population.	Parcel over 6 hours drive (more than 300 miles) of a town of 10,000 population.
D.	Proximity to major traffic flow routes	Parcel within 1 mile of major traffic flow route.	Parcel within 5 miles of major traffic flow route.	Parcel within 10 miles of major traffic flow route.	Parcel within 25 miles of major traffic flow route.	Parcel farther than 25 miles from major traffic flow route.	N/A
E.	Historic & Archaeological Sites	Outstanding historical or archaeological districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects on parcel.	Known historical or archaeological sites, districts, buildings, structures, or objects on parcel.	N/A	Possible unproven historic or archaeological site, etc.	N/A	None known
F.	Proximity to other Developed Recreation Areas	No recreation area within 25 miles or more radius of parcel.	1 established and developed recreation area within 25 miles radius of parcel (not contiguous).	2 to 4 established and developed recreation areas within 25 mi. radius of parcel (none contiguous).	Numerous recreation areas within 25 miles radius of parcel (none contiguous).	Parcel borders other established and developed recreation area.	N/A
G.	Proximity to Other Public or Trust Lands	No public land within 25 miles.	No public land within 10 miles.	Public land within 10 mi. of parcel, but none is contiguous with parcel. Amount of other public land is limited.	Same as 3 but amount of other public land is <u>not</u> limited.	Parcel borders other public land.	N/A
H.	Evidence of Recreational Use on Parcel	Camp sites, fire pits or rings on parcel, and recreation occurring on land.	Camp sites, fire pits or ring on parcel or recreation occurring on land.	Parking area, evidence such as trash shows parcel is used for some public activity (not garbage dump).	N/A	N/A	No evidence of recreational use.
I.	Location of Parcel Relative to Major River or Lake not contiguous to parcel	Water within 1/2 mile or less of parcel and with easy foot access.	N/A	Water from 1/2 to 1 mile away and with easy foot access.	N/A	Water up to 1 mile away but with difficult foot access.	No river or lake within 1 mile.

V. SCENERY

Factor	Category	5	4	3	2	1	0
B.	Environmental Intrusions	No environmental intrusions visible. (Free from aesthetically undesirable or discordant sites and influences on or off parcel.)	Environmental intrusions visible in <u>far</u> distance, not on parcel.	Environmental intrusions visible <u>near</u> parcel but do not dominate the scene.	Environmental intrusions visible <u>on</u> parcel but do not dominate the scene.	Environmental intrusions visible near parcel, dominate the scene.	Environmental intrusions visible (power lines, railroad, bridge, buildings etc.) on parcel, dominate the scene.
C.	Overall Scenic Evaluation (see manual)	Very high	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Distracting
D.	View (Vistas) From accessible points on parcel	Has many interesting and dramatic views throughout parcel or an extremely dramatic overlook vista point.		Has interesting views from parcel. Not extensive throughout parcel.		Has a few interesting views.	Parcel has no <u>interesting</u> views.
E.	Uniqueness of Area	Definitely unique for area-Nothing similar for miles.	Has Qualities which may exist on nearby parcels, but it is in a unique area.	Has Qualities which may exist on nearby parcels.	Has Qualities which exist on most but not all nearby parcels.	All nearby parcels have very similar qualities.	<u>Extensive</u> tracts with very similar qualities surround parcel.

APPENDIX I

RECREATION

HISTORICAL

EVALUATION

GUIDE

1. TOPOGRAHY

Category	5	4	3	
C. Terrain Variety	Vertical or near vertical cliffs, ridges, highly eroded formations, massive rock formations, severe surface erosion, etc.		Deep canyon walls, mesas, small scale erosional patterns, variety in size and shape of land forms dominate. May not be as steep or have as much relief of variety.	
D. Amount of usable area.	Greater than or equal to 75% of parcel.	Less than 75% of parcel, but greater than or equal to 50% of parcel.	Less than 50% of parcel, but greater than or equal to 25% of parcel.	Less than 25% than or equal
E. Geologic features	Extensive geologic features (exposed limestone formations, limestone ridges, basalt columns, large exposed boulders or rocks). Extremely interesting and possibly unique for area.		Extensive geologic features (exposed limestone formations, limestone ridges, basalt columns, large exposed boulders or rocks). Possibly not unique for area. Geologic features not as interesting.	
F. Water, forest, other site improvements	Very adequate usable areas available for development. Easy auto access.	Very adequate usable areas available for development. Limited auto access.	Limited usable areas available for development. Easy auto access.	Limited usable development.
G. Water scenic evaluation	Very High	High	Medium	Low
H. Recreation site development	Very adequate usable areas available for development. Easy auto access.	Very adequate usable areas available for development. Limited auto access.	Limited usable areas available for development. Easy auto access.	Limited usable development.
I. Subtopographic evaluation	Very High	High	Medium	Low

II. VEGETATION

Category	5	4	3	
F. Forest and variety	Forest and scattered trees throughout area. Sufficient variation in density of pattern to provide open space, clearings for variety, interest, enclosure, shade, privacy.	Forest and open areas scattered throughout most usable area, but lack of variety of forest pattern provides little interest.	Forest on usable area often too dense for easy use, but provides occasional areas of open space.	Forest present on usable areas not usable
G. Forest quality	Vigorous, little disease evident. Good specimens.		50 - 50 mixture of good and poor specimens.	
H. Forest variety	High variety of size and species.		Some variety of size and species: 2 or 3 different major species.	
I. Forest density evaluation	Very High	High	Medium	Low
J. Trees and forest pattern and variety	Interpretively dispersed. Add interest to any tree groups not interesting in themselves. Some use of area, possibly (provides privacy, space enclosure, etc) Do not provide movement.		Some present in small quantity or size, but add some interest. Fairly dense, blocks vision, enclosure or access to features.	
K. Grasses and other site improvements	Great variety of shrubs, various sizes, various species.		Some variety present; various sizes, and species.	
L. Ground cover: pattern and variety	Vigorous, dense, sturdy cover.	Most open areas of the parcel are covered with vigorous dense grasses or other vegetation. Occasional sparse areas scattered through parcel.	About 50 - 50 throughout the parcel. Some vigorous dense areas, some sparse, poorly covered areas or moderate cover throughout.	Most of the area covered. Areas scattered
M. Ground cover: variety	High variety: many types of grasses, weeds, ferns, and wildflowers or very low shrubs scattered throughout the parcel. Fair variations in appearance; interesting throughout parcel.		Some variety: Several types of ground cover. Some variation in appearance from place to place.	

GUIDELINES FOR RECREATION POTENTIAL EVALUATION

Special Note.

Evaluated Factor values which do not have a complete definitional range and are not identified by "N.A." are meant to be used as values which best fit the parcel characteristics. The 0-5 scale on these factors represents a continuous scale.

Special Instructions and Definitions for Written Entries and Evaluated Factors

Parcel: A parcel is defined as a contiguous tract of state land in one section. If a tract is contiguous to state land in another section and the contiguous land was also evaluated, it should be noted under General Comments.

General Comments: Note any photos taken, unusual features, conditions, springs, weather conditions, etc.

I. TOPOGRAPHY

A & B. Physiographic Types - examples:

Mountains	Plains
Valleys	Hills
Foothills	Buttes
Benchland	Mesas
Alluvial fans	
Rolling uplands	

C. Terrain Variety: topographic variation within the parcel

D. Usable Area: Usually less than 15% slope, suitable for automobile travel with minor additional road construction, and suitable for development of facilities.

The area should not be marshy or subject to annual flooding.

E. Geologic Features: Describe any outstanding or unusual features.

F. Valley, Gorge, Ravine Site Environments: A definable valley, gorge, or ravine within the parcel. If there are several valleys, evaluate the largest or the one with the most potential and note the existence of other valleys. Describe outstanding features. Rate amount of usable area within the valley regardless of valley size itself.

G. Valley, Gorge, Ravine Scenic Evaluation: See V C. Combine both the scenery of the valley itself and scenery as seen from the valley.

H. Ridge top Site Environments: Evaluate the largest, or the one with the most potential. Describe any outstanding features on evaluated site. Rate usable area on the ridgetop regardless of ridgetop size itself. (Same as F)

I. Ridgetop Scenic Evaluation: See V C. Combine both the scenery of the ridgetop itself and scenery as seen from the ridgetop.

II. VEGETATION

A-I. FOREST: An area of which 50% or more is covered with trees as determined by canopy area shall be called a forest for the purposes of this evaluation.

- D. Predominant Forest Type: List association which predominates on parcel (i.e. ponderosa pine - juniper, spruce - fir, etc.)
- E. Predominant Species: List most abundant species (i.e. ponderosa pine, spruce, 50% - 50%, etc.)
- I. Forest Scenic Evaluation: See V C. Describe any unusual or outstanding features.
- J & K. Bushes and Shrubs: Woody plants, usually with no main stem, between 1 foot and 20 feet tall at maturity.
- L & M. Ground Cover: Grasses and forbs (and woody plants under 1 foot tall at maturity).

III. WATER

- A. Name of Waterbody: List name and note if dry in summer or most of year. Evaluate only if water present all year-round.
- B. Stream Fishing Class: Determined by the Montana Fish and Game Department.
- F. Potential Water Activities - Examples

Motorboating	Wading
Non-Motor Boating	Fishing
Rafting	Scuba Diving
Water Skiing	
Swimming	
- G. Comment on Islands: Note size, location and features of any islands present.
- H-N. Stockwater Pits (man-made ponds which nearly or completely become dry in the summer and usually have no active drainage in or out) are not considered lakes.
- H. Lakes: If several lakes, rate the largest but evaluate others on separate sheets.
- I. Lakes: Drawdown; "Pleasant and usable level" refers to the absence of undesirable features such as mud flats, too shallow, extensive or rapid water level fluctuation etc.
- L. Lakes: Shoreline - "Usable shoreline" is shoreline which is potentially accessible by automobile or has very easy foot access. It must also be an area of less than 15% slope with stable soils and/or surface materials, large enough for camping or beach activities during the summer season. Dense vegetation should not block access to water.
- M. Lakes: Shoreline Scenic Evaluation: See V C. Describe any unusual or outstanding features.
- O-T. Streams: A "stream" is any natural year-round flowing body of water, including rivers. If several streams, rate the largest but evaluate others on separate sheets.
- O. Combine all stream lengths if more than one stream on parcel.

R. Streams: Shoreline: See III L

S. Streams: Shoreline Scenic Evaluation: See III M

T. Describe type of road that provides access.

U & V. Marshes: A marsh is an area of soft wet land which is usually waterlogged during growing season. During most years they are covered with as much as 6 inches of water and characterized by grasses and cattails; sedges and sphagnum; or shrubs and trees. Bogs and swamps are considered as marshes for the purposes of this evaluation.

OTHER SITE FACTORS

- A. Accessibility Onto Parcel: Describe distance by road to, and type of, next higher grade road.
- B. Legal Access Onto Parcel: "Legal access" is an established road constructed and/or maintained with public funds, onto the parcel or onto a contiguous parcel of public or state trust land. An Interstate highway without exit or frontage road should not be considered as legal access.
- C. Proximity to Population Centers: List the city that the parcel is in or nearest to according to ratings and give distance and direction as radius from parcel rather than actual road distance.

In category (5) a population of 2,500 was chosen to coincide with the 1970 census definition of the urban population.

In categories (4) - (0) a population of 10,000 was chosen to coincide with the 1970 census data for places of 10,000 inhabitants or more.

- D. Proximity to Major Traffic Routes: "Major" refers to paved designated primary state or federal highways as shown on the 1968 Traffic Flow Map published by the Montana Highway Commission. List Route, distance by road and direction from parcel.
- E. Historic and Archaeological Sites: Describe any site found on parcel.
- F. Proximity to Other Developed Recreational Area: "Developed recreation area" is defined as one with developed facilities constructed for use by the public (i.e. rest area, KOA campground, fishing access site, etc.).
- G. Public or Trust Lands: Land owned by the federal or state government. List ownership of contiguous parcels. "Limited" is defined as usually no more than 1 other separate section of public land within the same township, and usually no more than 16 separate sections of public land in contiguous townships.
- H. Evidence of Recreational Use: Describe any recreation occurring on parcel or evidence of past use.

V. SCENERY

- A. Right of Ways: None observed, or; list any right of ways observed (power poles, county road, underground pipeline, etc.).

- B. Environmental Intrusions: Objects or conditions which are distracting to the senses. Describe these in the space provided. A Man-made structure or landscape change should not automatically be considered an environmental intrusion. If, for instance, there is an old homestead which has blended in with the landscape and is pleasing to the eye, then it is not necessarily an environmental intrusion.
- C. Overall Scenic Evaluation: Scenery is a combination of landscape elements arranged in a manner that dramatizes those visual aspects which have special appeal to the human senses. Primary emphasis should be on the parcel.

Some of these landscape elements are:

Vegetation	Water
Soils	Color
Landforms	Man's works

Some visual aspects are:

Harmony	Variety	Perspective
Dominance	Repetition	Form
Contrast	Sequence	

A parcel with a (5) rating has a high and probably unique intensity and combination of the above factors surrounding as well as on the parcel itself. A (0) parcel and its surroundings are actually distracting to the senses.

- D. View: Rate potentially accessible viewpoints with views on or off of the parcel of features near or distant.
- E. Uniqueness: Describe any unique qualities. A "parcel" as used here is any designated unit of land - not necessarily state owned.

APPENDIX III

RECREATION POTENTIAL EVALUATION

COUNTY _____

PARCEL DESCRIPTION _____, Sec. _____ T _____ R _____ ACRES _____

General Comments _____

Topography _____

Vegetation _____

Water _____

O. Site Factors _____

Scenery _____

TOTAL _____

Classification _____

Date Evaluated _____ Evaluator _____

Other State Land in Section _____

Evaluated? _____ If not, Why? _____

FACTORS

RATING

I. TOPOGRAPHY

A. Major Physiographic Type. _____

B. Minor Physiographic Type. _____

C. Terrain Variety

D. Usable Area

E. Geologic Features _____

F. Valley Environment _____

G. Valley Scenic Evaluation.

H. Ridgetop Environment _____

I. Ridgetop Scenic Evaluation.

FACTORS

RATING

H. Lakes: Extent of Water Surface.

I. Lakes: Drawdown.

J. Lakes: Water Quality.

K. Lakes: Recreation Usability.

L. Lakes: Shoreline.

M. Lakes: Shoreline Scenic Evaluation

N. Lakes: Access to or near the Shore

O. Streams: Length on or Bordering on Parcel.

P. Streams: Water Quality.

Q. Streams: Recreation Usability.

R. Streams: Shoreline.

S. Streams: Shoreline Scenic Evaluat.

T. Streams: Access to or near water

U. Marshes: Size and Extent.

V. Marshes: Quality and Variety.

II. VEGETATION

A. Forested Acres (percent _____) _____

B. Forest Cover on Usable Area. High(>50%) Med.(25%-50%) Low(<25%)

C. Forest Cover on Other Areas. High _____ Med. _____ Low _____

D. Predominant Forest Type. _____

E. Predominant Species. _____

F. Forest Pattern and Density.

G. Forest Quality.

H. Forest Variety.

I. Forest Scenic Evaluation.

J. Bushes, Shrubs: Pattern & Density

K. Bushes, Shrubs: Variety.

L. Ground Cover: Pattern & Density.

M. Ground Cover: Variety.

IV. OTHER SITE FACTORS

A. Accessibility onto Parcel

B. Legal Access onto Parcel.

C. Proximity to Population Centers

D. Proximity to Major Traffic Routes.

E. Historic & Archeological Sites.

F. Proximity to Other Dev. Rec. Areas

G. Proximity to Other Public or Trust Lands.

H. Evidence of Recreational Use.

I. Location of Parcel Relative to Major River or Lake not Contig. to Parcel
Name: _____

III. WATER

A. Name of Waterbody. _____

B. Stream Fishing Class. _____

C. Streams: Est. Ave. Width _____ Est. Ave. Depth _____

D. Lakeshore length: Total _____ Parcel _____

E. Nearest Road if Over 1/4 mi. from Shore _____

F. Potential Water Activities. _____

G. Comment on Islands. _____

V. SCENERY

A. Right of Ways Through Parcel. _____

B. Environmental Intrusions.

C. Overall Scenic Evaluation.

D. Accessible Views (Vistas)

E. Uniqueness of Area.

